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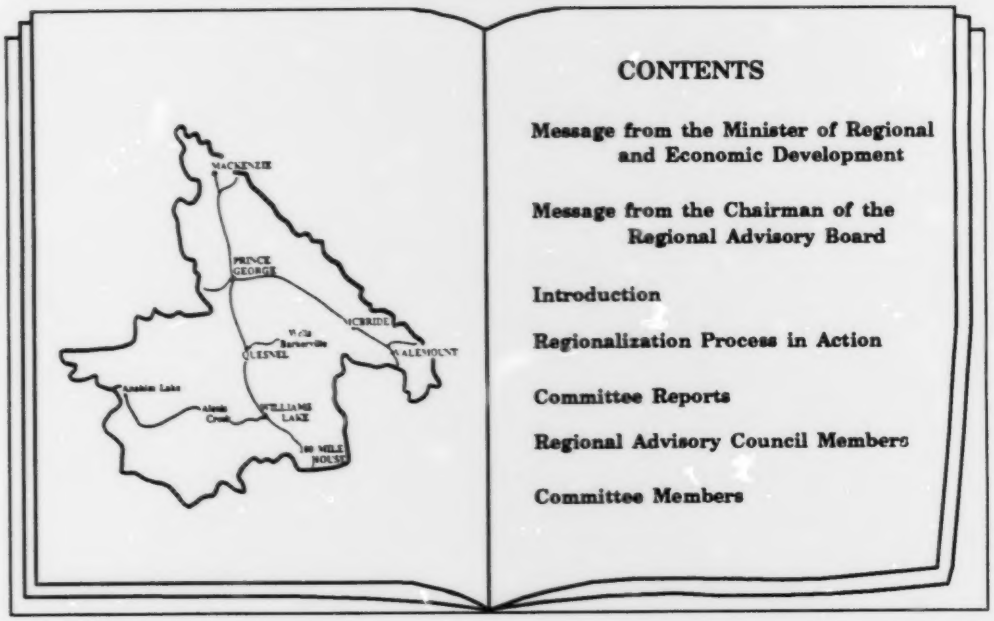
Cariboo Development Region

ANNUAL REPORT

Twelve Months Ending December 31, 1990



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CARIBOO DEVELOPMENT REGION

ANNUAL REPORT - 1990

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A Message from the Honourable Bud Smith, Q.C.

Minister of Regional and Economic Development

I am pleased to be the Minister overseeing the important business of regional and economic development within the Province of British Columbia.

In the Cariboo Development Region, a number of major projects have been initiated and the results of these efforts are readily apparent. The University of Northern British Columbia has been approved and several major industrial developments have reached the start-up stage.

Accomplishments of the past year clearly demonstrate the excellence of the information and advice provided. It is clear that the input from the regions is helping to shape the policy and direction of the government.

In the case of the Cariboo Development Region, input has been garnered through short-term committees and the overseeing Regional Advisory Council.

I would like to thank all the residents, committee members and investors who have worked for the benefit of this region - I wish you every success.

Congratulations to everyone involved; keep up the good work.

A Message from the Honourable Bruce Strachan

Regional Advisory Council Chairman

We have a lot to be proud of in the Cariboo Development Region. We began the year with the Honourable Stan Hagen, then Minister of Regional and Economic Development who joined us at the January meeting of the Regional Advisory Council.

Since that time, the Honourable Bud Smith has assumed the challenge of leading the Ministry and I have continued as the chairman of the council. The advice from the region has enabled me as the chairman, MLA and a Minister of the Crown to represent the interests of the region.

The council members advocate an environmentally sound, sustainable and diversified economy. The Region has supported projects which led to:

* The announcement and approval of the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC).

* The completion of an $80-million hydrogen peroxide plant in Prince George. Use of its product reduces chlorine consumption and the problems of dioxins.

* A second annual review of regional transportation needs.

* Completion of a region-wide health care study and substantial progress being made in a study to assist the strategic planning of the Prince George Regional Hospital.

* Our tourism committee recommending actions for a regional tourism strategy.

* Our woodwaste study paving the way for the proposal by NW Energy for a $135-million energy conversion plant for Williams Lake.

I wish to thank the people of the Cariboo Development Region. With their ongoing support, we will continue to add to these and other accomplishments.

Introduction

This report is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the past calendar year. It contains a description of the structure to oversee the regional development initiative in the Cariboo Development Region.

A number of initiatives addressed during the previous year have been completed or are well under way. During 1990, the region assisted in identifying projects, priorizing them and initiating others. Development is an ongoing process which requires both patience and nurturing over relatively long periods. The Honourable Bud Smith, Minister of Regional and Economic Development, is chairman of the provincial Regional Development Board which oversees the regionalization process. The Honourable Bruce Strachan, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, is a member of that board.

Within the development region, Mr. Strachan serves as chairman of the Regional Advisory Council, a group representing the communities within the region.

In addition to illustrating some of the activities and accomplishments, this report acknowledges the contributions of the members of the various committees who have participated in the regionalization process.

Regionalization Process in Action

Regionalization can be described as a process of identifying the needs and priorities of the development regions and then ensuring those needs are reflected in government policies, programs and planning.

The process is achieved through the contribution of volunteer time of committees and task forces. Municipal politicians, citizens and industry representatives are represented on these committees.

The Ministry of Regional and Economic Development supports each region with a regional development officer (RDO) in Victoria and at least one regional development liaison officer (RDLO) who resides in the region. The Cariboo Development Region is served by two RDLOs. The RDLOs, together with the RDO, work towards moving government closer to the people and creating a climate for economic growth.

The mandate of the ministry is to promote environmentally sound economic growth and diversification and to ensure access to government services in all areas of the province. The regions focus upon:

* enhancing effective regional participation in the government process;
* increasing the number of regional economic and social initiatives that are successful;
* contributing to cooperative problem solving; and
* assisting in establishing appropriate regional social and economic structures benefitting the regions.

Committee Reports

The work within the region at the committee level is guided by an advisory group which recommends the establishment of working committees and provides direct advice. In the Cariboo Development Region, this group is known as the Regional Advisory Council (RAC). Cariboo's RAC is comprised of the seven mayors for the incorporated communities, the chairpersons of the two regional districts, and the four MLAs. The Honourable Bruce Strachan, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, and MLA, is chairman of the Advisory Council.

Regional Advisory Council and committee activities are summarized below:

Regional Advisory Council (RAC). The RAC met five times during 1990 with the first meeting at Prince George in January. The main topic for that meeting was the presentation of the final report on the delivery of health care within the Region. The Honourable John Jansen, Minister of Health, was in attendance to receive the recommendations. Also present was the Honourable Stan Hagen, then Minister of Regional and Economic Development.

The second meeting took place in February at Williams Lake. The RAC received and provided recommendations on health care follow-up, regional highway signage, coogeneration wheeling charges, tourism strategy development, and recycling issues.

The third meeting was held in April at Valemount. The RAC received several presentations. Mr. Dick Scales illustrated the benefits to the region of the Open Learning Agency; Mr. Wayne Morgan presented information of wheeling charges for independent power projects; and a presentation was received from a group supporting a nature centre.

Regional Advisory Council (cont'd)

The fourth meeting, on June 16, was designed to coincide with the official seasonal opening of Barkerville. Members participated in the official opening of the expanded airport facility and the opening of Barkerville. The RAC meeting portion of the event received the tourism committee's final recommendations and comments by other affected ministries. The meeting concluded with a special "town hall" hearing at which numerous local merchants and interested citizens presented their views on a number of issues.

The fifth and final meeting for the year was held on September 8 at Alexis Creek . Items dealt with included: transportation; reactions to the health care study; tourism marketing; and an expanded tourism committee. As well, a special delegation from the west Chilcotin presented their concerns regarding ambulance service, electricity rates, and forestry operations.

Health Care Steering Committee. This committee was originally formed to steer the study of regional health care delivery and the development of a strategic hospital plan. The former was completed at the end of 1989 and the final report was presented by members of the committee to the January 1990 meeting of the Regional Advisory Council. The report was presented to the RAC and the Minister of Health at the meeting. Later during the year, the reports were submitted to the Royal Commission on Health Care.

Health Care Steering Committee (cont'd)

The second phase of the health study related to the need to define a role and a strategic plan for the Prince George Regional Hospital (PGRH). The final report is expected to be completed during early 1991. During 1990, a special sub-committee comprised of some members of the steering committee and the PGRH's Internal Strategic Planning Committee guided this final report.

Alcohol and Drug Committee. Also known as the Community Action Program (CAP), this committee provided recommendations for the allocation of grants under the regional budget administered by the Ministry of Labour and Consumer Services.

During 1990, the committee reviewed 17 applications and presented recommendations for over $70,000 of grant money. The allocation was well distributed within the region.

Tourism Committee. The four tourist associations providing services to the Cariboo Development Region comprise the core group of the Tourism Committee which was established in September 1989. The members met individually with their respective communities and in joint working sessions produced a paper entitled A Discussion Paper in Support of a Regional (Tourism) Strategy. The paper contains recommendations for action on tourism projects and initiatives. It was presented at the June meeting of the RAC.

Regional Transportation Committee. The committee was established in 1989 to respond to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways' Freedom to Move.

In 1990, the committee considered the latest transportation recommendations and local priorities within the region. A report was prepared and the regional transportation chairman submitted it to the chairman of the Regional Advisory Council. Mr. Strachan, as RAC chairman, formally submitted the regional recommendations to the Minister of Transportation and Highways.

Other Regional Activities. During 1990, two full-time field offices were established within the region at Prince George and Williams Lake. Staff from each of these locations met as needed with business clients throughout the region. The regional development liaison officers worked closely with members of the Regional Advisory Council and other committees. Consultation and support were provided on a wide range of issues including: a nature centre for the Prince George area; numerous business start-up or expansion proposals; follow-up health care issues such as ambulance service at Anahim Lake; facilitating the flow of critical information, such as old growth forestry strategy concerns, to and from the region; establishing business advisory meetings; assisting with the smooth flow of services related to the Strong Communities in the 90s program and the Business Opportunities at Your Door Step.

The ministry supported specialized conferences, such as the Conference on Sustainable Development held in Quesnel, and supported Cariboo businesses which participated in Market Discovery 90.

Throughout the year ministry staff assisted with the concluding stages of a $135-million woodwaste to energy conversion project in Williams Lake. Resulting from a previous study by the ministry, this private enterprise project has received provincial approval. Tenders have been called and a contractor has been selected. Construction is expected in the spring of 1991. This project was developed by NW Energy, a consortium of Tondu Energy Systems Inc., WP Energy Company, and Inland Pacific Energy Corporation, is the private-sector company backing the project.

University of Northern British Columbia. Continuing support for a northern university resulted in major progress during 1990.

Earlier, the region provided seventy percent of a $100,000 fund which supported the Dahllof report. The report, Building A Future of Excellence, resulted in the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology providing recommendations to the provincial cabinet. Their report by the Implementation Planning Group (IPG) was released during January of 1990.

The IPG report recommended that a university be established with headquarters in Prince George. During 1990, cabinet formally approved of the concept, budgets were established, and a legislative bill was passed which established the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). Professor Geoffrey Weller of Lakehead University has been appointed President of UNBC and a campus site on Cranbrook Hill in the western portion of Prince George has been chosen.

Regional Advisory Council Members

The Regional Advisory Council (RAC) are the mayors of the incorporated communities, the chairpersons from the two regional districts and the four members of the legislative assembly. Several changes resulted from the municipal elections and the new members, effective December 1990, are noted in parentheses.

Honourable Bruce Strachan
RAC Chairman
MLA, Prince George South

Mr. Neil Vant
MLA, Cariboo

Mr. David Zirnhelt
MLA, Cariboo

Ms. Lois Boone
MLA, Prince George North

Mayor Mike Pearce
(Mayor Steve Wallace)
City of Quesnel

Mrs. Darlyne Brecknock
(Mr. Wayne Reeves)
Chairman, Cariboo Regional District

Mayor Ray Woods
(Mayor Walter Cobb)
City of Williams Lake

Mr. Colin Kinsley
Chairman
Fraser-Fort George Regional District

Mayor Bill Whalley
District of Mackenzie

Mayor Steve Kolida
Village of McBride

Mayor Donna Barnett
(Mayor Ray Carlson)
Village of 100 Mile House

Mayor John Backhouse
City of Prince George

Mayor Norman McNee
(Mayor Jeanette Townsend)
Village of Valemount

Staff associated with the development region:

Mr. Chris Stanley-Jones
Regional Development Officer
Victoria

Mrs. Frankie Carpenter
Ministerial Assistant to
The Honourable Bruce Strachan

Mr. Harold Demetzer
Regional Development Liaison
Officer, Williams Lake

Miss. June Stinson
Regional Development Liaison
Officer, Prince George

Mr. John Bennet
Regional Projects Consultant
(former part-time Regional
Development Liaison Officer)
Prince George

Mrs. Kim Macahonic
Secretary, Field Operations
Prince George

(During part of 1990, the ministry hired the contract services of Steven Threadkell, who assisted as a regional analyst.)

Committee Members

Health Care Steering Committee

Mr. Chris Stanley-Jones
Acting Chairman
Regional Development Officer
Victoria

Mrs. Monica Becott
Director
Fraser-Fort George Regional
Hospital District

Mrs. Darlyne Brecknock
Chairman
Cariboo Regional District

Mr. Art Stauble
Chairman, Prince George Regional
Hospital Board of Trustees

Mr. David Munton
(replaced Mr. Colin Millard)
Ministry of Health

Ms. Anne White
(During her tenure as Health Unit
Manager, Cariboo Health Unit)

Ms. Shirley Butchart
Associate Executive Director
Prince George Regional Hospital

Mr. Dave Wilson, Administrator
Fraser-Fort George Regional
Hospital District

Mr. Alan Kuroyama
Administrator
Cariboo Regional District

Dr. J. Galt Wilson
Member of Medical Staff
Prince George Regional Hospital

Health Care Steering Committee (cont'd)

Stage II - Hospital Study Committee (PGRH)

The second phase of the study was guided by some members of the Health Care Steering Committee plus the following special committee.

Mr. R.A. Husband
Executive Director
Committee Chairman

Mr. A. Stauble, Chairman
Board of Trustees

Mrs. D. Rogers
Board Member

Dr. W. Bishop
Chief of Staff

Dr. G. McKenzie
President of Medical Staff

Dr. G. Wilson
Member of Medical Staff

Dr. A. McNestry
Medical Director

Ms. S. Butchart
Associate Executive Director

Mr. C. Dezell
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. J. Fisher
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. A. Love
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. J. Johnston
Assistant Executive Director

Alcohol and Drug Committee (Community Action Program)

Mr. Ron Crawford, Chairman
Alcohol and Drug Regional Manager
Prince George

Mr. Dave Yarmish
Prince George

Ms. Laurie Burton
Valemount

Mr. Mike Watkins
Williams Lake

Mr. Peter Cunningham
Alcohol and Drug Program
Prince George

Ms. Mary Hansen
Prince George

Ms. Sandy Brunton
Quesnel

Brother Ed Lynch
Williams Lake

Ms. Lory Mitchell
Secretarial Support
Alcohol and Drug Program

Mr. John Bennet
(acting RDLO now replaced
by Ms. June Stinson)

Tourism Committee

Each of the four tourism associations were represented on the committee, the main working representative being the managing director or equivalent.

North By Northwest
Mr. Graham Holmes, President
Mr. Greg Meredith,
Managing Director

Cariboo
Mr. Pat Corbett, President
Mr. Gordon Finlay
Managing Director

Peace River Alaska Highway
Ms. Trudy Bennett, President
Mrs. Ella Fraser
Regional Manager

High Country
Mr. Duncan Meyers, President
Ms. Lee Morris
Regional Manager

(Staff support was provided by Chris Stanley-Jones, Regional Development Officer and by Steven Threadkell as a contract analyst.)

Regional Transportation Committee

Below are committee members and alternates. Listed in parentheses are those who contributed prior to the membership changes during 1990.

Mayor Bill Whalley
Chairman
District of Mackenzie

Mr. Stu Drinnan
Standard Bus Contracting Ltd.
Prince George

Mayor Steve Kolida
Village of McBride

Mr. Rudy Johnson
Williams Lake

Mr. Fred Waldie
Cariboo Pulp and Paper Ltd.
Quesnel

Mr. Don Robertson
100 Mile House

Mr. James Zachariuk
Lac la Hache

(Herb Assman)
Northern Interior Fastfrate Ltd.
Prince George

Mr. Keith Dunn
Lomak Transport Corp.
Prince George

Mr. Gary Foreman
Yellowhead Helicopters
Valemount

Mrs. Darlyne Brecknock
Director, Cariboo Regional District

Mayor Walter Cobb
City of Williams Lake
(former alderman)

Mr. John Dobbs
100 Mile house

(Mr. Bob Smigelsky)
Williams Lake

(Mr. Hans Lutter)
Director
Cariboo Regional District

Regional Transportation Committee (Cont'd)

Alternates

Alderman Tom Briggs
District of Mackenzie

Mr. Ron Hawkins
Village of McBride

Mayor Norman McNee
Village of Valemount

Alderman Frank Garden
City of Quesnel

Mr. John Mansell
Weldwood of Canada
Williams Lake

(Staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and the Ministry of Regional and Economic Development.)